(b) whether Government have conducted any survey in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) In connection with the ongoing negotiations on WTO Agreement on Agriculture, Government from time to time has worked out the agricultural support provided by various countries.

The levels of agricultural support in some of these countries including India are given below:

(In US $ Million)

Name of the country	Total	Domestic Support
	2000	2001
USA	74,200.3	72,129.1
European Communities	78811.3	75803.13
Japan	30954.25	—
Brazil	2831.51	2769.23
South Africa	457.00	351.20
Argentina	347.90	—
India	1997/98	1998/99
	8288.28	9048.13

MSP for cotton and chilly

1201. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh is neglecting farmers by depriving them of the minimum support price in regard to cotton and chilly;

(b) if so, the present MSP in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether the farmers have lost some crores of rupees this year due to this;

(d) if so, the details of such losses suffered by the farmers in each district;

(e) whether the Cotton Corporation of India officials and traders were in collusion and were exploiting the farmers;

(f) if so, the number of persons who were found guilty, so far;

(g) the action taken against them, so far; and

(h) the steps to be taken strictly to protect the interests of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Price support is provided to the cotton growers through the Minimum Support Price (MSP) mechanism. In the case of chilli growers, Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) is implemented as and when requested by the State government. The details of MSP fixed for varieties of cotton grown in Andhra Pradesh for the year 2005-06, are as under :

Sl.No.	Variety	Support Price (Rs. per Quintal)
1	JKHY-1/MECH	1885
2	RCH-2	1990
3	Bunny/Brahma	2010
4	MCU-5	2055

For carrying out MSP operation in Andhra Pradesh, the CCI is getting full assistance and cooperation from the State Government authorities.

To provide relief to the Chilly growing farmers in Andhra Pradesh, the Government of India approved MIS for procurement of 30,000 MT of chilly at Market Intervention Price (MIP) of Rs. 2700/- per quintal for premium quality and Rs. 2500/- per quintal for common quality from 23.03.2005 to 20.06.2005. Andhra Pradesh Markfed purchased around 9600 MTs of chilly under this scheme.

Procurement of chilly is considered under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS). This Scheme aims to protect the interests of the growers from distress sale of their produce in the event of over-production. On a specific request from the State Government, the Government of India implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of

agricultural and horticultural commodities. The loss, if any under the MIS is to be shared on 50:50 basis between the Central and the State Government concerned.

(c) and (d) To help the farmers, the CCI has been purchasing kapas of FAQ and below FAQ grade up to three stages during 2004-05, CCI had carried out massive MSP operations in Andhra Pradesh through a network of 71 procurement centres and had procured a record quantity of 64.24 lakh quintals of kapas. These purchases are record purchases by CCI in Andhra Pradesh and highest ever amongst all the cotton growing States. During the current cotton season i.e. 2005-06, the CCI has purchased 13.86 lakh quintals of kapas upto 21.02.2006 in Andhra Pradesh.

(e) to (g) All purchases of kapas by CCI are made in the presence of Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) officials from the notified market yards only.

Further, the State Government has this year, permitted the CCI to make direct purchases from cotton farmers without involvement of commission agents and accordingly all purchases are being made directly from the cotton farmers as per certification by APMC officials. No instances/complaints in this regard were brought to the notice of the Central or State Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(h) The CCI endeavors to make purchases of all quantities offered to it by cotton farmers under MSP operations throughout the seasons. This helps the cotton farmers to get remunerative prices for their produce and avoid the possibilities of distress sale by them.

Sugarcane production

1202. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in production of sugarcane in the country over the years;

(b) the production of sugarcane at the end of the season 2005-06 *vis-a-vis* that for the previous two years;

(c) the reasons for low production and the areas where that has been prominent; and